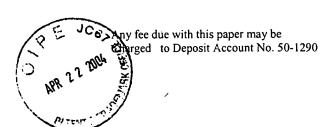
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on All - - - - - Gy

pursuant to 37 C.F.R 1.10.

By

Patricia Muir

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor

Abe KEIKO

Hitoshi IKEDA Masao HIGUCHI Nobuo SHIRAI

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Serial No.

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APR 2 9 2004

Filed

November 18, 1998

Technology Center 2600

Title

PACKET TRANSFER APPARATUS

Examiner

Kevin C. Harper

Group Art Unit

2666

April 22, 2004

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions for a three-month extension, a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) and authorization to charge the requisite fee being enclosed.

In response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2003, please amend the subject application as follows: